

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08103 190630Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AS-01

INRE-00 /056 W

----- 070987

O R 181932Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3697

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP, US

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL: SPINOLA'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 272251

1. EMBASSY INFORMED MFA DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS NOV 18 ABOUT SPINOLA'S PLANNED VISIT. DIRECTOR APPRECIATED RECEIPT OF INFO AND CLARIFICATION THAT U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH VISIT. DIRECTOR SAID THAT VISIT WAS MOST UNHELPFUL IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE IT WILL BE USED BY LEFT-WING PORTUGUESE ELEMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OUTSIDE FORCES WERE ANXIOUS TO UNDO REVOLUTIONARY RESULTS OF APRIL 25 MILITARY UPRISING. IN HIS VIEW, THE TIMING FOR SPINOLA'S VISIT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WORSE FOLLOWING A WEEK-END IN WHICH PRO-VASCO GONCALVES FORCES WERE PULLING THEMSELVES TOGETHER FOR FINAL ASSAULT ON THE AZEVEDO GOVT.

2. DIRECTOR INFORMED EMBASSY THAT MFA HAD LEARNED THAT VASCO GONCALVES AND GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO HAD HELD SECRET MEETING IN BEJA ON SATURDAY, NOV 15. ALTHOUGH CARVALHO WAS GRADUALLY BEING STRIPPED OF SOME OF HIS
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08103 190630Z

POWER, HE WAS STILL AN IMMENSELY POPULAR FIGURE WITH THE

MASSSES AND HAD TO BE RECKONED WITH, THE DIRECTOR SAID.
THE GOS WAS MORE CONCERNED THAN EVER WITH PRESENT TRENDS
IN PORTUGAL AND, ALTHOUGH RELATIONS WERE BUSINESSLIKE WITH
THE PORTUGUESE, IT WOULD NOT HAVE ITS AMBASSADOR RETURN TO
LISBON IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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